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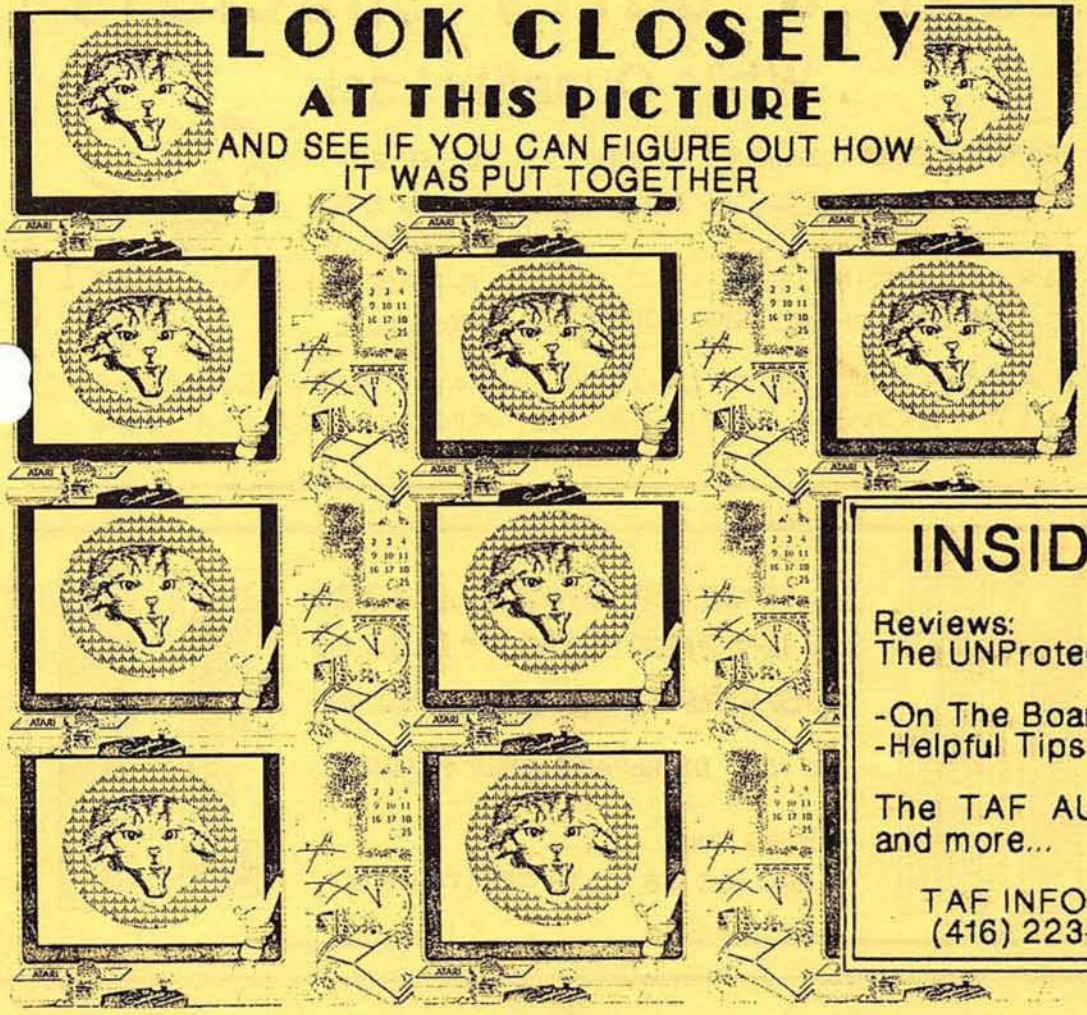
PHOENIX

THE TORONTO ATARI FEDERATION NEWSLETTER



INSIDE

Reviews:
The UNProtectors

-On The Boards
-Helpful Tips

The TAF AUCTION
and more...

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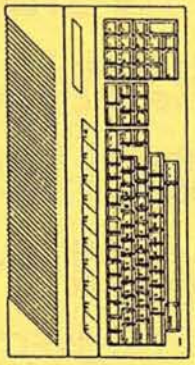

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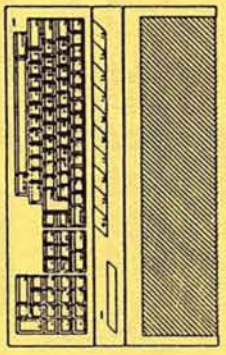

EDITORIAL

There's a little bit of magic in every Atari computer, I think, that makes the user want to sit there for hours and hours playing with it. That's the image I get when I think back to my first perceptions of the company. I guess Dr. Earnest Dichter (affectionately known as the father of motivational research) would say that perhaps I envied Nolan Bushnel who "made a million dollars in quarters" with his PONG game and went on to create Atari. Or he might say there was the essence of "home, family and creation" in every machine's conceptualization and that I secretly desired those. Wilson Brian Key of Subliminal Seduction fame might suggest the sensual connatations relating to deep inner desires and the like. If the computer does have a soul like Dr. Dichter suggests of all machines, does it reside in ROM and will the blitter chip be its new realization for the user?

We may never know. Society may develop a negative silicon intelligence as in the movie the Terminator and attempt to rub us out systematically. (A little high voltage applied to the mouse perhaps?) For now, I'll stick to rationalizing my play with the computer as being a 'learning experience' and leave the fantasizing for a future piece in Phoenix. (Ie. "CRAZY RUMOUR"--did you know that if you remove the boards from your XE/XL cartridges and plug them into the rear pins of the ST's cartridge port, you can run them using the 8-bit emulator. Just type in Load "... from the emulator screen and,.. voila!)

THANKS-GIVING

At this time of year, I get a bit nostalgic and after last month's editorial blast, I want to say, I couldn't have done it without all of you. To the writers and helpers on PHOENIX and all who answered my questions, provided soothing, prodding and otherwise made it possible, I say, DON'T STOP, I need you. I couldn't have done it without your help. Thank you. Our mailbox awaits your contributions, too. And yes, you will get your disks back.

About this issue: Desktop Publishing permits the selective "shrinking" of material making it possible to put 2 pages on one. It's a bit easier and faster to lay out that way and that explains our page count. Word wise, it is about the same as before. (If you do get around to counting...) Enjoy this issue.

Larry

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Jim Clark, Dave Lee, Paul Gooderham, Chris Payne, , Harvey Wolfe, Prof. X.Y. Zapp and the donut crowd.

and special thanks to AMCO II as well as Atari (Canada) Corp.

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CLARK'S COMMENTS

This month I'd like to welcome all our new members. I hope you will feel your membership fee is money well spent. The best way to ensure you get your money's worth is to get involved in the running of the club right away. Volunteer to help on one of the committees. Just ask anyone wearing a club shirt at the meeting.

I personally would like to thank the executive and the others who helped out recently getting our meetings underway this fall as well as **Paul Gooderham** for his organization and supervision of the club's efforts at COMPUTER FEST. To all who helped at the show: THANKS. It is appreciated and I hope you had fun. This was the fourth computer show in as many months and they were all a bit different.

Also, thanks to **Chris Betty** for doing the artwork for our TAF buttons (EASY DRAW) and **Dave Goad** for getting a machine and making the buttons. There's nothing official about this logo but it's a good way to promote the club. Any ideas you may have along similar lines are welcome. Go to it as we may have a contest later to see who can produce thebest button design. Prizes will be announced when the contest is finalized.

IMG Scanners: Four people have already shown an interest in buying these so hurry up and get your order in. (These were pictured on the front page of ST NEWS given out at the last meeting.) We only need 10 orders to get the whopping 50% discount, so let me know at the next meeting if you want one.

AUCTION...

The next TAF AUCTION will be held at the L.S. Beattie school on November 16.

Check in starts at 5:45 pm
Auction time: 7-7:30 pm

Bring your goods with your completed form found in this newsletter to the desk at the front of the cafetorium. To give everybody a fair chance at selling their goods, a maximum of 10 items per person is all that will be allowed to be auctioned in sequence. If you have more than 10, you will still be able to put the extras in, but they will get a higher number and these will come up later in the program. Payment must be by cash or personal cheque with proper identification. Sorry, no charge cards will be allowed.

NOTE: ALL ITEMS MUST BE IN WORKING ORDER or otherwise specified. This auction is open to all members and non-members alike.

We expect to have software and hardware from both the ST and XL/XE computer lines. If any of you have computers, printers, software or related items that you are no longer using, this is your chance to turn them into hard cash. BRING THEM ALONG! yes, all programs must ORIGINAL (no copies). If the docs are with the programs, they usually go for a higher price.

Payment to people who have sold items will be made by cheque from TAF or by cash at the end of the auction if time and conditions prevail.

IMPORTANT: 1. THE TORONTO ATARI FEDERATION will take a 10% fee off everything that is sold as a handling fee.
2. THE TORONTO ATARI FEDERATION is not responsible for your goods once they are submitted for auction, but we will endevour to look after them as best we can.

Further information on the Auction will be available in the next newsletter.

Remember that THE FIRST ITEMS CHECKED IN ARE THE FIRST ITEMS AUCTIONED OFF, so get there early to make sure your items are auctioned off.

Last year we had over 350 items so the sooner you check in the better. You all take care.

Jim Clark

President
Toronto Atari Federation

"PHOENIX", is a publication of the **TORONTO ATARI FEDERATION** (T.A.F.), a non-profit organization made up of members who use or have an interest in Atari computers.

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COMPUTER FEST REPORT

by Paul Gooderham

Once again, "Toronto Computesl" has staged a successful computer show. Computer Fest '87 drew thousands of people to Exhibition Place September 19 and 20. Attendees saw over 80 exhibitors, some seminars, a "panel of experts" and a games competition. But it was mainly a retail show with many local retailers and clubs manning the booths and plying their wares.

The TAF booth was well attended. There was never a dull moment with ST and 8-bit users crowding the booth and asking questions. There were even a number of people without computers who were contemplating buying an Atari who stopped to ask advice. We sold over 70 newsletters, distributed 250 TAF leaflets, and signed up 9 new members. In addition, we handed out [illegible]ature provided by Atari and [illegible]onstrated the 1040 ST they loaned us for the show.

Thanks to Marty Herzog and Atari for the use of the computer. I also wish to express my gratitude to the TAF members who helped man the booth. Thanks to Ron Duffy, Ralph Frampton, Frank Lam, Andy Morpurgo, Chris Payne, Norm Preston, and Lou Shimbart for a job well done. Jim Clark also pitched in at the booth and helped with deliveries. And, of course, thanks to all of you who attended the show. Without you, our success wouldn't have been possible.

ST VIEWS

by Stephen Loban

This month I would like to follow up on some of the comments I made regarding SIGs last month.

Hopefully, some of the basic SIGs will already be established during the October ST meeting. These should include Programming, Data Base (primarily DB Man) and Desktop Publishing/Word Processing. If more get started this month, all the better.

For a moment, I would like to reflect on why becoming involved with a SIG is so important to the club's survival and also why each one of us should strive to make this a success.

First, think about why you joined TAF to begin with. Probably for one or all of the following reasons:

- To learn more about your computer and to get the most out of it.

- To interact with others who have similar interests as you.

- To keep abreast of new developments affecting your computer.

All three of these items are part and parcel of why SIGs are so important. Smaller groups afford the opportunity to participate for those less likely to get involved in large group discussions. SIGs allow interaction on a personal level to widen one's knowledge base as well as sharing experiences with others of like interests.

Every other monthly meeting will have the second half apportioned off for SIGs to meet. This will provide a common meeting area for a SIG to meet if it was not able to meet separately previously. It will also provide an opportunity to be involved in more than one SIG if you so desire. Or perhaps just listening in for a few minutes at each SIG to see what's new and exciting.

Getting involved with a SIG should be a most rewarding experience for all the members of TAF. If there is not a SIG started in your area of interest, then START ONE. So get involved and have some FUN!

That's why we bought computers, isn't it?

Another Computer Fest is tentatively planned for March 26 and 27, 1988, a week following Spring Break. If it goes on, we intend to occupy the same booth but we'll be looking for even bigger crowds and better deals. So reserve those dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

on the boards

by Harvey Wolfe

This month the discussion continues from the local boards. Most of our material is from Amco II, (979-7935), the home of TAF ONLINE.

Message : 2648 [Open] 05/10/87 13:15
From : Tom Harlund To : Wayne Charlton (x)
Subject : #2643 DBMAN

Yes, I like the new version, but I am not sure what you mean about using the new advanced commands "when the program is loaded". Most commands can be used from the dot command except of course do while loop, do cases, if's etc. etc.

With the new version you can create pull down menues, you can place a mouse menu or several anywhere on the screen, you can display the GEM file selector box, you can direct input or output through midi or serial port. You can finally test whether the printer is on. The program comes with an ASSIST file that allow you to execute commands from the pull down menus, commands like CREATE a database, FIND, INDEX, PRINT etc. etc. There is also an editor now,similar to the one in dBASE III. There is finally a through description of the report generator. All this info is on the disks(2). The dBMAN manual is not the best, I agree. Buy a book on dBASE III, its the same language except for 2 or 3 commands. I much prefer DBMAN to dBASE III.

Message : 2693 [Open] 05/12/87 07:59
From : Tom Harlund To : Mouraoe Scott
Subject : #2667 DBMAN

I have seen DBMAN at Compuplace in the Sheridan Mall, 1700 Wilson Ave. I think the price is around $160.00. This is the new version, 3.1. Compuplace has the best prices in town. No,I don't work there, just a customer, but I like their support- excellent. With the new version of DBMAN you can use the menus in the pull down windows to create a database, and then index, find, locate etc. etc. No more typing the command, just point and click. DBMAN is easily the best database for the Atari, but as with anything a little more complex it does require that extra effort to learn: its all well worth it.

Message : 2705 [Open] 05/12/87 22:29
From : Shawn Smith To : Tom Harlund
Subject : #2590 DBMAN

Hi Tom, I have just recently started using my DBMan and am enjoying it immensely. What I was wondering is how much did the upgrade finally cost you and how did you get it? Also are you fairly competent in programing in the procedural language as I have programmed a search routine but as time is of the essence in getting this project done I cannot afford the 3 min search time on a 200 record file. The gist of this long run-on sentence is if I sent you my code or at least typed part of it in a message would you be able to easily see a faster way of sdoing the same thing?
Shawn Smith

Message : 4375 [Open] 07/05/87 12:43
From : Danny Wong To: All
Subject: Re-inking printer ribbons

For those Atari users who have printers and are hesitant to do those ink gobbling screen dumps because new ink cartridges cost a small fortune, or if like me coloured ribbons are not available for your brand of printer, here are some tips at remedying that problem. I can buy coloured EPSON FX-80 ribbons in cartridge) for $8.00 ea that are the same size as my STAR NX-10 ribbons (in cartridge) that only come in black for $17.00 ea, opening the cartridge and replace the BLACK with, let's say BLUE...

Now that method is easy and only costs me $8.00 each time a ribbon (I have 4 different coloured ribbon cartridges) becomes too faint...however I prefer another method, though it is a fair amount of work, saves me lots of money since I do so much personal printing:

Buy ordinary, black, TYPEWRITER ribbons for $2.00 (should be the same width as your original brand and long), carefully CRAZY-GLUE the 2 ends securely (careful that that you do'nt glue the ends with the ribbon twirled around) and put it in your cartridge. Since most ribbons come in black you can remove the black ink from the ribbon (use plastic gloves and cleanser-should come off easy), let dry and put into the cartridge. With special ribbon ink apply an even coating with a piece of board folded in half and piece of sponge glued on each side saturated with ink while running the ribbon through by turning the ribbon nob. Afterwards, using toilet paper remove, in even stokes all excess ink from the ribbon. Usually 2 passes of the ribbon should be suffiencient but make absolutely sure that the ribbon DOES'NT HAVE TOO MUCH INK on it or it will be uneven and messy. The ribbon should be good for up to 4 RE-INKINGS MAX ONLY.
Danny

from AMCO II (979-7935),

Msg# : 352 Sent : 6/7 /87 1:28 PM, Rcvd: 6/7/87
To : DANNY WONG From : RON SHARP
Subj : Re: <350> Re-inking printer ribbons

I have heard that there is a problem re-inking ribbons. Apparently dot-matrix printer ribbons have some lubricant added to the ink to prevent excessive head wear, so you have to make sure to get the proper kind of ink. Can anyone comfirm this?

Msg# : 353 Sent : 6/7/87, 5:52 PM
To: RON SHARP From : DANNY WONG
Subj : Re: <352> Re-inking printer ribbons

HI Ron...as to the subject of proper ink for dot-matrix printers, I order special matrix ink from the States that is made for re-inking dot-matrix printer ribbions. The important thing to avoid problems when re-inking is to make sure that there is'nt too much excess ink on the ribbon or the heads could get GUMED-UP...so regular cleaning of the print head helps too. True, as you said some manufacturers add a special lubricant to their ribbons to KEEP THE PRINT HEAD CLEAN !!!

E/XL LIBRARY

Well, here's another month. And with it, the 8 bit Library GROWS.
This is a rundown of just what we've got in store for you.

TAF 88: TouchEdit. This disk will make the Double Sided TouchEdit disk that helps you design Player/Missile and font face graphics. Similar to Rambrandt in viewing features.

TAF 89: Dvorak Disk. This keyboard program restructures your QWERTY layout to the "more efficient" Dvorak system. The learning may be hard to come by, but try it and you could up your typing speed by...25% or more.

TAF 90: Textpro Support Files. Contains the following- Support 001, Address, Phone, Macmenu, Extend 2.5 (B & C), Macro and most of the documentation files. The main program (TEXTPRO) is on disk 81 as an Autorun.sys file.

TAF 91: General Disk. No, not the name of Patton's roommate but TAF's customized system [illegible] that are a must for the frustrated. All the files [illegible]SYS (no COM's). RAMDISK.SYS for the memory [illegible]aders, FONT.SYS lets you dump ANY font to [illegible] screen like those on disk 36. The AUTORUN loads the menu.

The disk has the unique feature in all Ataridom of Plain English command lines. Meaning you know what you're doing instead of wondering "what does that mean?"

What else is on the disk? Another, surely better and probably *The Last Sector Editor*. And a Label Printer. As a bonus: GAMES! Three of the finest TAF has to offer. No names. Just think "paper, water, dynamite".

And a notice: The TAF Library Catalogue on DISK is now available for the low price of $3 for members, $4 for non-members

.Until next month:
"Keep on Computing!"

Dave Lee
TAF 8-Bit Librarian

ST LIBRARY

by Chris Payne

This month there are three disk releases from the TAF Library.
Disk #35 is a Word Processor and related utilities disk. It contains v.2.3 of ST Writer that works with GEM. The program comes with a spell checker that has a generous size dictionary. Included with it is a very powerful Text utility that allows you to sort text or data files, do search and replace and other useful stuff.

Disk #36 is a games disk. Most prominent is v.96 of Michtron's Time Bandit. Included are more puzzle files for The Wheel of Fortune game, Star Game, a Space Invaders clone, Scroll 4, which is Tic Tac Toe in 4 levels and McQuiz a quiz maker. The latter allows you to make up your own questions and organize it all the way you want.

Disk #37 is pretty power-packed. First is Printmaster borders and a bunch of graphics for same. Then, there is Notepad, an accessory which is just that, a one page concurrent scratch pad for whatever you're working with. Grabber or NUGRABX.PRG converts a pic to an LST file which you can merge into any Gfa Basic program for custom screens. VERY nice.
ROCP.ACC is a read only control panel that eliminates the necessity for the panel on your disk. Useful.
Sun/Moon will have you captivated. This is a solunar computation program. It calculates with precision, the risings and the settings of the big orbs above us. Convenient for the home horticulturist and farmers in TAF. And maybe the budding werewolves and vampires, especially this month.
Last bits on the disk? SuperBoot, an all-in-one autobooter with many, many features. And, courtesy of our very own, Ralph Frampton (no, not his quiz game- its coming though): TAI DAI An English version of disk #25's MicroCAD that was in German. Now you'll know what you're doing.

That's it. Not bad in a couple of weeks, eh?

And remember: read the docs and if you need a particular program, I'll see if I can help. Thanks.

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NEW RELEASES:

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K-SWITCH,,, 2 PROGRAMS IN MEMORY
BARBARIAN,,, ADVENTURE IN STONEAGE
GRIDIRON,,, THE FOOTBALL SIMULATOR
FLEET STREET PUBLISHER,,,
FLIGHT-SIM II,,, COLOUR AND MONO

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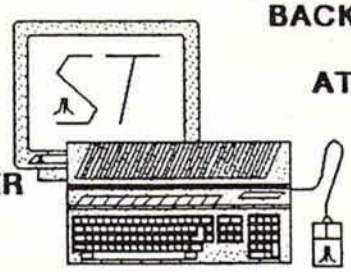

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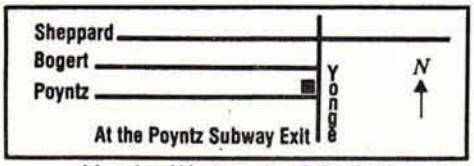

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SNIPPETS

by Larry Sannuto

8-BIT MOUSE: The Rodent, a mouse-like device was profiled by Michael Hahn as a very worthy project. It originally appeared in the January '87 issue of ANALOG. You construct it from a Tandy joystick that contains two potentiometers that are hooked up as paddle controllers. The software (as an Autorun.sys file) simply uses each one as either the X or Y co-ordinate. You can easily place your cursor anywhere on the screen and it works with programs like RAMBRANDT and KOALA PAD. It is fairly easy to use with either Basic or the Assembler/Editor. If only the "DESKTOP" program written for the XE/XL were available to be used with it, you could have a reasonable simulacrum of GEM. Let's hope
.ref. SPACE Probes, Aug/Sept.87

THE COMPLETE DESKTOP PUBLISHER: Probably the best book on the subject yet is this one Daniel J. Makuta and William F. rence. This COMPUTE! Pub- tion goes from rudiments to ophisticated typesetting and layout in its information packed 300 pages. Topics as detailed as Page Description Languages, Telecommunications, and Media Conversion are covered. A complete glossary is a helpful bonus for a reader of any level of experience. I won my copy in a draw at Computer Book & Supply last spring, but I'm sure they have lots more in addition to one of the most complete selections of computer books in the city. (They'll order any book, supply item or computer equipment you want).
Computer Book and Supply. 6062 Yonge St. just north of Cummer/Drewry Aves.Ph. 222-6115.

TREKKIE TIPS: 1. Never lose track of your energy levels- you may need to protect yourself when returning to Starbase (like after a direct Krellan hit).

2. KNOW where a Starbase is BEFORE youtake on the enemy. Determine its status, reserve level and if it is about to come under attack.

3. STOCKPILE Torpedoes. When you go to Starbase for the three R's, release any torpedoes you have in the quadrant as mines. Then, when leaving with your 20, retrieve the mines (to ship's maximum of 30).

4. A tricky tactic that the enemy can't seem to grasp is when warping into a quadrant, put yourself into a corner. By doing so, you have one or two shields that won't be taking hits. Switch power to the shields that are and/or use it for the weapons systems. Learn to use those shield controls.

5. Keep track of the number of enemy ships in a Starbase quadrant. Go to another base for restocking if it is about to be attacked. Then, when the alert goes out, you can warp to the beseiged base to defend it. You'll be at full strength and have a better chance.

6. Use phasers on manual when you get there and when the targetting computer asks for an amount of energy to expend, use 3 points below the level it would take to destroy the enemy. After they are disabled, dock at Starbase, then use your tractor beam to pull the ship into the base.

Jim Woodward says this is a good way to complete your mission with time to spare; especially if you get five ships at one time.
ref. Pokey Press, Sept. 87

COMPUTER SERVICES, A LIABILITY MINEFIELD: This was the title of an interesting article about the legal aspects of software use in the accounting field. Aimed at CA's who advise their clients on the use of information recommending equipment to them or who develop and market their own software programmes, it put forth some stern warnings. The magazine consulted the High Technology Law Group of Fraser & Beatty. Some of the highlights: Preventing employees from copying software; the rights of software creators; copyright as it stands and proposed legal changes and precedents; an accountant's liability re: defective software; cases backing up the recommendation to decline "computer advice"; and a detailed overview of the place of the computer in the CA "toolkit". The references cited by the authors (partners in F & B) are worth the reading of this report alone, especially as they pertain to Canadian copyright law.
Thanks to Tim Finlayson for bringing this article to my attention.
ref. CA Magazine, Aug.87

FREE ST's: Here's a cheap way to get yourself a computer. Enter Rowntree's "Win an Atari" Contest. The prize, if you are successful is a 520 STfm computer w/drive, colour monitor, SMM804 dot matrix printer, five (5) software packs (DS5004,26,27,29,45), and a computer desk and chair. The contest is a long one. It closes NEXT August 31. But for the Early Birds, the first 1000 entries get a bonus FREE New Blue Smarties YO-YO. Now you can't pass that up, can you? Start buying those Smarties now! Some stores are discounting the 56g box to 2/$1. You just might get lucky.

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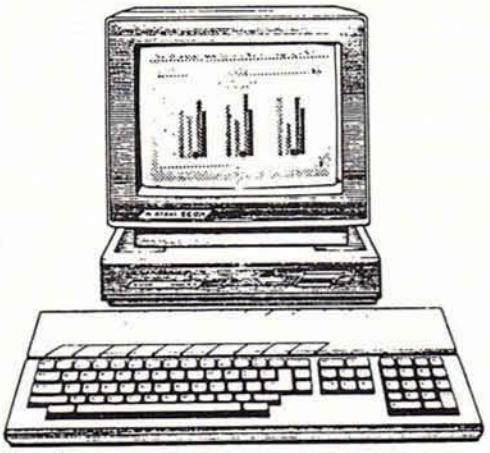

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ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WILL ATTEND MEETINGS:

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COMPUTER MODEL: _____

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WANT MORE INFO?
CALL THE TAF INFO-LINE about meeting dates, etc.
(416) 223-9699

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASSIST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES?

1. HARDWARE (Bring equipment to meetings) YES_____NO_____
2. SOFTWARE (Provide public domain software) YES_____NO_____
3. NEWSLETTER (Write articles, paste up, etc.) YES_____NO_____
4. PROGRAMME (Demonstrate at meetings, etc.) YES_____NO_____

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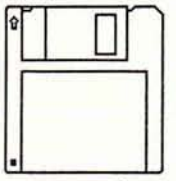

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(This advertisement was done entirely on an Atari ST using Publishing Partner)

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I acknowledge that the items listed for sale above are in good working order.

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10% off to TAF members

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Comes with drive, adapter & software
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THE UNPROTECTORS

A LITTLE ETHICS, A LOT OF POWER

b rof. X.Y. Zapp

BACKUP MASTER 1.0 ,
BLACKPATCH 1.1 ,
CHIPMUNK 1.0 & 2.0 &
2.97(3.0)
SKUNK 1.0

First lets examine what these software products are and what they do and then get down to the nitty gritty ethics and the almighty $$$.

All of the above products are what I like to call UNPROTECTORS. That is each of the above will make a sector copy of protected software and provides data that is written over the sector copy that actually rewrites the software program so that any protection techniques that were present on the original are bypassed by this sector copy. The copies seem to work as the originals and all that seems to be changed is that there is no longer copy protection on the disk. The disk may then be copied with a simple sector copier or as one advertisement (BACKUP MASTER) states may be sent over the phone lines via m n.

s to the ethics involved in th above. Copyright laws in the U.S state that a person may make a backup of any software for personal use to protect the original copy from damage. Makes sense to me. But the distribution of any unauthorized copy is a violation of the copyright laws and not a nice thing to do.

But what is happening to the 8-bit ATARI is that the same periodicals that lecture about piracy are advertising these products every month. Go ahead take a look at any of them see for yourself. Sure they say that as long as the legal purchaser does not abuse the above software then there should be no piracy problems. Well the problem persists.

I'm not telling users how to use their computers. What you do is your responsibility and you have to live with the consequences. I think that a company that advertises a product in the manor that Duplicating Technologies does is a problem which we can all solve by not buying their products. Sure their software works but someone who states the facts so bluntly is hanging a carrot on a stick in front of a donkey. Some people act like asses without the prompt. Software publishers spend thousands of dollars in development of the programs and protection. Why should they allow their product to be altered with a utility that very often costs less than the software it is altering? All that these products do is prompt the publishers to develop more sophisticated protection techniques and its back to square one again.

These products are in alphabetical order not in order of preference.

BACKUP MASTER: $ 39.95 US Relatively new, no updates yet
Duplicating Technologies Inc.
99 Jericho Tpke. Suite 202
Jericho,NEW YORK 11753
(516)333-5805

BLACKPATCH: $49.95 US data disks 9.95 US
Computer Software Services
P.O Box 17660
Rochester,NEW YORK 14617
(716)467-9326

CHIPMUNK: 34.95 US version 3 shipping now.
Microdraft
19 Harbour Dr.
Lake Hopatcong,NEW JERSEY, 07849
Updates 14.95 US each.
(201)663-0202

SKUNK: 19.95 US no longer available. no updates published.

CHIPMUNK 1.0 & 2.0 & 2.97(3.0).

MICRODRAFT INC

As you can see by the heading the CHIPMUNK is the most up dated of the unprotectors and seems to be nothing but surprises every time I order the update ($14.95)

Let's start with the first version 1.0 of coursel It contained two versions of sector copiers one 48K and one for the XE. Both fair copiers but slow. The CHIPMUNK program works fine and you select the parameter from the menu by letter. This version had the most parameters that failed to work for me.

All in all a good start and fair value as purchase of this allowed you to order the updates at a reduced price (not just data but a complete upgrade of the whole thing)

CHIPMUNK 2.2 had the same boot procedure as the original but if you boot the second side (option key not required, it disabled basic automatically)you have a beautiful smart sector copier that reads what you have in your system and automatically configures itself to use the maximum memory and a second drive as destination if present.

Once the sector copy is finished reboot the front side and you find the CHIPMUNK menu similar to the original but press "u" prompts to flip the disk and hit return. This loads in a second menu of utilities: UNLIST which will list an unlistable basic file, UNDELETE which will reverse the delete function of DOS if the files have not been overwritten AUTORUN an autorun.sys builder utility and THE MULTIVERSION BACKUP SUB MENU which they say in the documentation will unprotect

cont'd next page...

17

most programs from certain publishers automatically. ARTWORX, EPYX, MICROPROSE WARGAMES, SPINNAKER, SSI NEW, XEROX are included in this update.

Documentation is extensive and very detailed and surprise! THE CHIPMUNK comes unprotected. Chipmunk is the least expensive of the available unprotectors and seems to be the most value for your dollar. With all of the features and utilities included I can recommend it wholeheartedly.

CHIPMUNK 2.97 (3.0)?? is a further extension of the full features of the second version. Upon booting side one you are prompted for input to select:
1. Parameters 2. No-key 3. Utilities.

Selecting 1 takes you to the parameter menu which now include many multiversion and multi protection parameters for 281 different programs (some have several versions and several different protection techniques)

Selecting 2 takes you to a parameter menu that contains parameters for those programs which require a key to operate. Programs such as Leaderboard and Paperclip (all versions) are included. These parameters will allow you to run the programs without the security key.

Selecting 3 prompts to turn the CHIPMUNK disk over and then lists the same utilities from version 2.2 (see above)

Booting side 2 presents a MULTIVERSION BACKUP SUBMENU which includes those from version 2.2 and BRODERBUND, EDUFUN, HAYDEN, HBJSAT, XLENT as well as COPYMATE 2.4 from version 2.2 and a sector copier for the 1200XL similar to the Blackrabbit published in ANALOG several years back. It requires you to boot holding <Option> and is a two pass copier.

CHIPMUNK has a fault in not allowing D2: as a destination for writing parameters. The price is below the competition and updates were available for a small fee and each update has been rich in enhancements. I can recommend that for someone not willing to purchase a Happy Enhancement or someone who doesn't have an ATARI disk drive, THE CHIPMUNK is a great Bargain!

BACKUP MASTER 1.0
GARDNER COMPUTING, (DUPLICATING TECHNOLOGIES)

Well the people who brought you the DUPLICATOR have finally jumped on the bandwagon and published a CHIPMUNK CLONE! I use those words discriptively as for all intents and purposes the BACKUP MASTER 1.0 is a poor clone of the CHIPMUNK 1.0 and as I have kept up to date with the Microdraft program and it is currently shipping version 2.97 you may possibly see that this is in no way a viable purchase. Sure the BACKUP MASTER has many of the latest parameters included but these alone do not make BACKUP MASTER a joy to use.

A few faults and that's all that I will mention.

The parameters are in no order that I can see not even alphabetical. That is enough to throw it out right now as you must scan the whole data listing to find out if BACKUP MASTER will unprotect the software you have.

The system has no shortcuts as the CHIPMUNK has like "goto".

BACKUP MASTER has no utilities.

BACKUP MASTER must be re booted after each parameter is written??? That is stupid and inconvenient.

Documentation is slim (one page)

No listing of what programs The BACKUP MASTER will unprotect.

The BACKUP MASTER is protected and will not unprotect itself.

The BACKUP MASTER parameters do work on 99% of the software I tried but the system is so archaic that I didn't try many. I am suspicious of the source of the parameters included as the parameters that didn't work from CHIPMUNK 1.0 and were later updated didn't seem to work with THE BACKUP MASTER as well. This is brought out into the light by the Microdraft people in a letter to the editor of this newsletter.

All in all I think you are much better off buying CHIPMUNK for less money and getting what you pay for than spending the money on something that will do the job but drive you nuts doing it.

Next Month, the Professor continues with his detailed examination of the Unprotectors.

DEADLINES!

Columnists: Your material on disk (preferably) is due on the 15th of October for our next issue. If it is not in by that time, I'm afraid it won't appear. Hey, give us some time to make this rag and your scribblings beautiful, eh?

Advertisers: The above schedule applies equally to you. We've got retailers lining up to put their ads in here. Your camera-ready art is welcome.

WRITERS, ARTISTS, LEND US YOUR WORK!

PHOENIX needs your reviews, observations and graphics. I know a few of you doodle around with your computer. Don't be shy, diddle for us a bit. We like pieces around 250-400 words. Put it on disk using any Atari format. Don't print it to disk. Make a straight ASCII file and eliminate the printer codes. That's all.

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Used ST software with orginal manuals. Word Writer $65, Data Manager ST $65, Swiftcalc ST $65, Easy Draw $70, Printmaster $25, P/M Art Gallery 1 $20, P/M Galllery 2 $20, Labelmaster Elite $30, Degas $30, Chessmaster 2000 $30, Diablo 425.
Call Tony after 6:30pm. (416) 838-2950

FOR SALE: Colour Monitor for ATARI ST, $430. Also, VIP Professional- GEM version (unused), $170; Easy Draw (unused), $70; 3 Font/Art Packs for Easy Draw (used), $20 each; Label Master Elite (unused), $40. Call John Parkyn. 266-0295

FOR SALE: Silent Service, Bop 'n Wrestle. Best offer. Mike. 245-5543.

THIS SPACE IS YOURS. SELL STUFF, WRITE (little) WORDS OF WISDOM. Do you NEED some specific piece of SOFTWARE? Ask for it here. This is your pipeline to a vast source of user group information and contacts. USE IT. Jot down your AD and give it to our advertising manager or mail it to us. We'll try to put it in our NEXT ISSUE. Give it a try. PHOENIX is read internationally. This is a service for individuals only- no commercial ads allowed.

DEMONSTRATE!

Brilliant programmers, hardware hackers, retailers and anyone who wants to speak to our group on some area of expertise. We welcome you. Call our Exec.

FOR SALE: AtariWriter Cartridge. Brand New. phone Lou. 223-0996.

FOR SALE: Letter Wizard. Word Processing program. Complete with Docs, Brand new. $25. Dave Lee. 429 2922

FOR SALE: Atari 1050 with U.S. Doubler and RANA 1000 Double Density Disk Drives. Atari 400 w/48K. Price negotiable. Make me an offer. call Jim. 242-3413.

FOR SALE: Amdek 220 Green Monitor, 2 Atari 1050 Drives, 130 XE Computer, 2 joysticks, MPP 1150 Interface, Programs- AtariWriter, SYNfile, Visifile, Homepak, The Writer's Tool and others. $700 or best offer for all. Ted Neilson. 447-3753.

INCREDIBLE INTERFACE: My ATR8000 has two DS/DD, 360K drives. It runs CP/M (Wordstar) in 80 columns and has an RS-232 port so it can use any standard modem. PLUS, it contains a 48K printer buffer. Hooks up easily to your 8-bit Atari. Cables included. Make an offer or will consider a trade? Call Paul Gooderham. 839-6568.

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Disk Catalogues: ST-$6, XE-$4.

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Toronto, Ontario M2N 6M2
Note. Canada and U.S. orders only.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

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VP/XE
chris carveth 638-0212

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Dave Lee 429-2922
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[illegible]- Wayne King 690-2502

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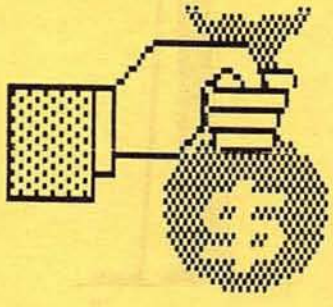
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 ST MTG.	3	4	5	6	7 SCARB. COMPUTER FAIR 11AM-3.00PM
8	9	10	11 REMEMBERANCE DAY	12	13	14
15	16 T.A.F. ANNUAL AUCTION	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

TAF AUCTION
Nov.16

The auction is here again!!! Jim Clark has outlined the details but the main thing is to BE THERE. The fun that is had by all makes it one of the events of the year. We are hoping TORONTO COMPUTES will be there again, and as they said last year WHAT BARGAINS. We expect that with many going to ST models 8 bit software and hardware will be well represented. The indefatigable auctioneer showman is to show, plus his myriad of helpers..or is that entourage. See you all there.



PHOENIX

THE TORONTO ATARI FEDERATION

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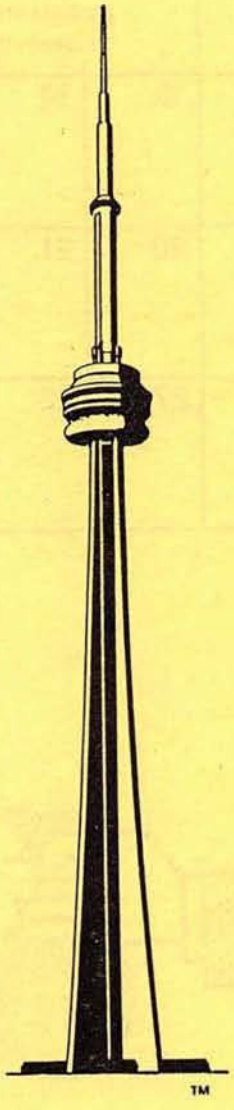
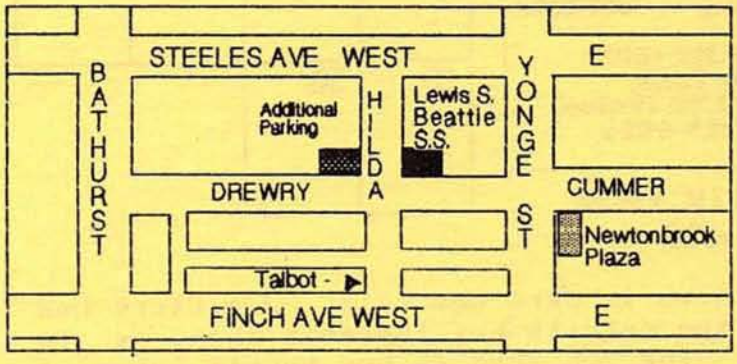


FIRST CLASS
PREMIERE CLASSE



Meetings of the **TORONTO ATARI FEDERATION** are held in the cafetorium of the Lewis S. Beattie Secondary School, 110 Drewry Ave.
TIME: 7:30 pm.

MEETING DATES

SI	XE/XL
NOV 2	NOV 16
DEC 7	DEC 21
JAN 4	JAN 18

20